

disease. The book's major strength remains the impressive and unique compilation in one source of the pathology, epidemiology, pathophysiology, clinical features, and management of renal artery occlusive disease. This book belongs in the library of physicians whose practice encompasses nephrology or hypertension. Vascular surgeons should have access to it, as the natural history and background data necessary to make intelligent choices about the treatment of renal artery lesions is reviewed in detail. It is a unique and valuable contribution in an easy to use and reasonably priced format.

Richard Cambria, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Mass.

Current surgical therapy, 5th edition

John Cameron, St. Louis, 1995, Mosby, 1118 pages, \$145.

This one-volume but broad-ranging review text is now in its fifth edition, and remains popular across a wide spectrum of surgical practitioners. Among a massive profusion of surgical texts, *Current Surgical Therapy* has retained its stature as the reference of choice for any surgeon seeking concise, credible, and most of all practical information about general surgical problems. The book has achieved an especially devoted following among those newly-minted surgeons who are preparing for board exams, not to mention the more mature veterans who are facing recertification. Yet this work is much more than a core syllabus for the studious. It is a remarkably cohesive sourcebook for much of the daily practice of general surgery.

At a length of 1090 text pages, Dr. Cameron's book has expanded substantially over previous editions, but only in proportion to the continued growth of surgical knowledge and opinion. The 315 contributors are familiar names whose stature in their own disciplines lends authority and credibility to their chapters. Yet with this panoply of authors, one is impressed by the editor's success at main-

taining the integrity of the work as a whole. Each chapter is written in a smooth narrative style that presents the information clearly and sensibly. For the most part, the prose remains free of the obfuscation and tangled syntax that can frustrate the readers of medical literature. The weight of *Current Surgical Therapy* lies in its prestige (and perhaps its physical mass), but there is nothing ponderous about its content. In addition to lucid and cogent writing, most topics are further clarified by crisp illustrations and graphics.

The volume is organized according to body systems, with sections and chapters arranged in a generally logical sequence. One could argue that the section devoted to "Pre- and Postoperative Care" belongs at the beginning rather than at the end, but the book can be easily digested in whatever order one chooses. The first half is devoted to the entire gastrointestinal tract and related abdominal viscera. Later sections provide comprehensive coverage of diseases of the endocrine glands, breast, vascular system, integument, and thorax. Although the chapters on vascular disease are naturally more compact than one can find in dedicated vascular texts, there is still plenty to learn from them. Trauma and critical care are thoroughly discussed toward the end of the book. The very last section is new to the current edition, and is one that this reviewer found particularly informative: twelve brief chapters devoted to minimally invasive surgery. Although experience and opinion in this field are evolving rapidly, Dr. Cameron and his contributors have assembled an excellent summary of laparoscopic methods and indications in this closing section.

Current Surgical Therapy is a book intended for daily reference by residents and practicing surgeons. Even a single reading to study for the boards would make it well worth the price. Most purchasers will find themselves reaching for this volume time after time, a practice that will prove cost-effective indeed.

Robert Atnip, MD
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, Pa.